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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7292  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 04 DOHA 03240

DEPARTMENT FOR INR, NEA/RA, AND NEA/ARP  
LONDON FOR JOHNSON  
PARIS FOR ROSENBLATT  
CINCCENT FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR  
TAGS: SOCI QA SU PREL PINR  
SUBJECT: ISLAMIC DA'AWA ORGANIZATION

¶1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

¶2. THE INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT WAS DERIVED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES IN QATAR WHERE THE ISLAMIC DA'AWA ORGANIZATION HAS A PRESENCE. THE INFORMATION HAS NOT BEEN INDEPENDENTLY CONFIRMED AND IS PROVIDED SOLELY AS BACKGROUND FOR COMPARISON WITH INFORMATION SOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT, OTHER AGENCIES AND OTHER POSTS CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT, STRUCTURE, AND OPERATIONS OF THE ISLAMIC DA'AWA ORGANIZATION (IDO) HAVING ITS ROOTS IN THE SUDAN.

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GOALS AND OBJECTIVES  
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¶3. DA'AWA MEANS "CALL" OR "INVITATION", REFERRING TO THE CALL OF NON-MUSLIMS TO CONVERT TO ISLAM. VARIOUS ISLAMIC SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT VIEW SUCH A CALL AS "SACRED." THE QURAN STIPULATES THAT MUSLIMS SHOULD INVITE NON-MUSLIMS TO BE CONVERTED TO ISLAM AND STANDARD ISLAM-BASED LAWS AND REGULATIONS HAVE INDICATED THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS THROUGH WHICH MUSLIMS CAN HONOR SUCH A SACRED COMMANDMENT. ONE WAY IS BY DONATING FUNDS TO SPECIALIST ISLAMIC AGENCIES ESTABLISHED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

¶4. THE DETERIORATING SITUATION OF MUSLIMS IN THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA HAS PROVIDED FERTILE GROUND FOR MUSLIMS WORLDWIDE, RICH AND POOR, TO CARRY OUT THEIR SACRED DUTY. THE FOUNDERS OF IDO ASCERTAINED THAT SOME MUSLIMS IN AFRICA WERE STARVING AND SUFFERING FROM THE ECONOMIC BURDENS BROUGHT ON BY ILLITERACY. THEY ALSO BELIEVED THAT CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WEST HAD INVADED AFRICA FOR THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTIANIZING MUSLIMS BY PROVIDING THEM WITH BASIC DAY TO DAY NEEDS. IDO WAS ESTABLISHED TO COUNTER THE PROCESS OF "CHRISTIANIZATION" BY PROVIDING RELIEF AID, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING FOR MUSLIMS.

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ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE  
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¶5. THE IDO ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE IS BELIEVED TO CONSIST OF A BOARD OF TRUSTEES AT THE TOP, AN ISLAMIC RELIEF AGENCY, AN AFRICAN ISLAMIC BENEVOLENT SOCIETY FOR MOTHER/CHILD CARE, AN AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR PRIVATE EDUCATION, AND THE DON FODUE (SIC) BENEVOLENT CORPORATION, AN ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION WHOSE SHARES AND PROFITS ARE ALLOCATED FOR IDO OPERATIONS. THIS CORPORATION OPERATES ACCORDING TO ISLAMIC BANKING RULES. IT IS UNCLEAR WHERE THIS CORPORATION IS REGISTERED.

16. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SOURCES, BOARD MEMBERS CONSIST OF A PRESIDENT, SECRETARY-GENERAL, REPRESENTATIVES AND OBSERVERS. GCC POSTS MAY WISH TO VERIFY NAMES INCLUDED IN THE LIST. POST DOES NOT HAVE INFORMATION ON WHETHER THE LIST IS INCLUSIVE OR UP TO DATE:

- PRESIDENT - ABDULRAHMAN SIWAR AL-DAHAB

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- AL-DAHAB IS A FORMER PRESIDENT OF SUDAN'S GOVERNING COUNCIL. HE WORKED FOR QATAR'S MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IN THE EARLY 1970S AS AN ASSISTANT TO THE COMMANDANT-IN-CHIEF OF THE QATAR POLICE FORCE. HE IS WELL-KNOWN TO QATARI OFFICIALS, INCLUDING SOME FROM RULING FAMILY CIRCLES. HIS EMPLOYMENT IN QATAR WAS ON "SECONDMENT" FROM THE SUDAN POLICE FORCE. IN THE MID-1970S AND UPON EXPIRY OF HIS CONTRACT IN QATAR, AL-DAHAB RETURNED TO THE SUDAN WHERE HE LATER LED A COUP AGAINST JAAFAR AL-NUMEIRI, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE SUDAN.

- AL-DAHAB IS BELIEVED TO BE WELL-RECEIVED AT OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE LEVELS IN OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES. POST UNDERSTANDS AL-DAHAB HAS THE SOLE HONOR OF HAVING LED A MILITARY REGIME IN THE SUDAN FOR ONLY A FEW YEARS THEN PASSING GOVERNMENT TO AN ELECTED REGIME. THIS UNPRECEDENTED STEP IS VIEWED IN HIS FAVOR BECAUSE HE IS PERCEIVED AS THE ONLY ARAB MILITARY LEADER WHO HAS DONE SO FOLLOWING A STINT IN POWER. OTHERS WHO LED COUPS AGAINST ESTABLISHED GOVERNMENTS DECLINED TO ABANDON THEIR POSITIONS VOLUNTARILY. AL-DAHAB IS GIVEN CREDIT HERE FOR THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF IDO IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

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--SECRETARY-GENERAL - MUBARAK QASIM-ALLAH (NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON NATIONAL ORIGIN)

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--REPRESENTATIVES FROM SAUDI ARABIA:

-- SHAYKH AHMED SALAH JAMJOUM, GENERAL MANAGER OF AL-MEDINA PRESS/PUHBLCATION EST., FORMER MINISTER OF COMMERCE

-- DR. ABDULLAH OMAR NASSIF, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD ASSOCIATION, FORMER PRESIDENT OF KING ABDULAZIZ UNIVERSITY

-- DR. ABDULLAH BIN ABDUL MOHSIN AL-TURKI, PRESIDENT OF IMAN MOHAMMED BIN SAUD ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY

-- MR. AMIN ATTAS AKIEL, ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE, ISLAMIC WORLD ASSOCIATION

-- DR. TAWFIQ AL-QASIER, SECRETARY-GENERAL, INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM FOR ISLAMIC YOUTH

-- DR. HAMAD AL-SULFIEH, SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR ISLAMIC ENLIGHTENMENT, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

-- DR. AHMED TOTANGI, BUSINESSMAN

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES:

-- SHAYKH SAQR ABDULLAH AL-MARRI, DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

-- SHAYKH SAIF AL-GHORIR, BUSINESSMAN

-- SHAYKH JUMAA AL-MAJID, BUSINESSMAN

REPRESENTATIVES FROM QATAR:

-- SHAYKH ABDULRAHMAN BIN ABDULLAH AL-THANI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SHARIA COURTS

-- SHAYKH ABDULLAH MOHAMMED AL-DABBAGH, ASSISTANT DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SHARIA COURTS

-- DR. YUSUF AL-QARADAWI, FORMER DEAN OF ISLAMIC STUDIES, QATAR UNIVERSITY.

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REPRESENTATIVES FROM KUWAIT:

-- SHAYKH YUSUF JASSIM AL-HAJI, FORMER MINISTER OF ISLAMIC AFFAIRS AND ENDOWMENTS

-- MR. MOHAMED NASIR AL-HAMDAN, DEPUTY MINISTER OF ISLAMIC AFFAIRS AND ENDOWMENTS

-- SHAYKH ABDULLAH AL-ALI AL-MOTAWA, CHAIRMAN, SOCIAL REFORM SOCIETY

-- SHAYKH JASSIM SAAD AL-JASIR, FORMER MINISTER OF ISLAMIC AFFAIRS AND ENDOWMENTS

-- JOUAD ABDULLAH AL OMAN, DIRECTOR, ZAKAH HOUSE

-- DR. ABDULRAHMAN HAMOUD AL-SULAITT, CHAIRMAN, AFRICAN MUSLIM SOCIETY

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REPRESENTATIVE OF BAHRAIN:

-- SHAYKH ISSA BIN MOHAMMED AL-KHALIFA, FORMER MINISTER OF LABOR

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OBSERVERS:

-- MR. AL-TAHER MOHAMMED AL-SHUWAIDI, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF ISLAMIC CENTERS COMMISSION, LIBYA.

-- MR. MA'TOUK AL-ZUBEIDI, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE IDO, LIBYA.

-- MR. ABDUL-HAMEED SHAHIN, AL-AZHAR, EGYPT.

-- SHAYKH AHMED LEGO, ISLAMIC PREACHER, NIGERIA.

-- SHAYKH ABDULGADER MOHAMMED AL-AMMARI JUDGE IN THE SHARIA COURT, QATAR.

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(COMMENT: POST UNDERSTANDS THERE ARE AT LEAST THREE SAUDI OBSERVERS AND ONE MAURITANIAN BUT NAMES WERE NOT AVAILABLE. END COMMENT)

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IDO PROJECTS  
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¶7. THE IDO IS SAID TO HAVE IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS WORTH USD 3.3 MILLION TO DATE. THEY INCLUDE:

¶A. TEN U.A.E.-- SPONSORED SCHOOLS TO SERVICE UGANDA, ERITREA, CHAD, AND SOUTH SUDAN REFUGEES. (ESTIMATED COST USD 2 MILLION)

¶B. FIFTY-FOUR MOSQUES WITH ANNEXED LITERACY/QURAN SCHOOLS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN AFRICA. FINANCE WAS MADE BY DONATIONS FROM QATAR, KUWAIT, SAUDI ARABIA, U.A.E., AND SUDAN.

¶C. FIFTEEN SCHOOLS, INSTITUTES, AND EDUCATIONAL CENTERS OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED ABOVE IN SUDAN, UGANDA, ERITREA, AND CHAD WITH A CAPACITY OF UP TO 9000 STUDENTS.

¶D. THIRTY-FOUR ARTESIAN WATER WELLS IN VARIOUS AFRICAN LOCATIONS.

¶E. ISLAMIC STUDIES INSTITUTES IN SUDAN TO SERVE THE AFRICAN CONTINENT. (COST: USD 450,000).

¶F. TWELVE HOSPITALS, HEALTH CENTERS, AND MATERNITY HOSPITALS IN VARIOUS AFRICAN LOCATIONS, WITH ANNUAL OPERATIONAL COST OF USD 260,000 AND CAPACITY OF 10,000 PER MONTH

¶G. VILLAGE FOR ORPHANS OF REFUGEES IN SUDAN.

IH. EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT TO ZANZIBAR, ESTIMATED COST OF USD 320,000.

I8. IDO IS SAID TO BE WORKING ON RAISING FUNDS FROM PRIVATE DONATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

IA. ARABIC LANGUAGE AND ISLAMIC SCHOOLS FOR REFUGEES FROM UGANDA, ERITREA, CHAD, AND SOUTHERN SUDAN WITH AN ESTIMATED COST OF USD 720,000.

IB. PROVIDING FOR 60 ISLAMIC PREACHERS IN SOME AFRICAN STATES. (ESTIMATED COST USD 900,000)

IC. CONSTRUCTION OF FIVE ISLAMIC COMPLEXES IN ZAIRE, ZANZIBAR, UGANDA, CHAD, AND KENYA . (ESTIMATED COST OF USD 2.5 MILLION).

ID. CONSTRUCTION OF ACCOMMODATION FOR PEOPLE OF RECENT CONVERSION TO ISLAM IN SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES (USD 500,000).

IE. SEVERAL OTHER PROJECTS VALUED IN THE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO BUILD MOSQUES, QURAN SCHOOLS, ISLAMIC SCHOOLS, ARTESIAN WELLS AND AN ISLAMIC (SIC) PRINTING PRESS.

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BANK ACCOUNTS  
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I8. POST HAS INFORMATION THAT IDO MAINTAINS AN ACCOUNT WITH THE QATAR ISLAMIC BANK (NO. 207357/40/50). IDO IS CURRENTLY ASKING MUSLIMS IN QATAR TO DONATE MONEY TOWARDS COMPLETION OF THE PROJECTS NOTED IN PARA 7. A SOURCE IN THE ISLAMIC BANK REPORTED THAT THE ACCOUNT LISTED HERE IS FOR DONATIONS FROM ORDINARY INDIVIDUALS AND THAT THERE ARE OTHER ACCOUNTS IN VARIOUS GCC STATE BANKS.

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COMMENT  
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I9. THIS DA'AWA ORGANIZATION HAS AS ITS PUBLIC OBJECTIVE BOTH THE EXTENSION AND STRENGTHENING OF ISLAM WITH AFRICA AS A PRIMARY TARGET. THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE A LINK WITH VIOLENCE AND ITS OPERATIONS IN QATAR ARE ABOVE-BOARD BUT EXTREMELY LOW-KEY. POST IS INTRIGUED BY THE PROBABILITY OF HIGH-LEVEL INVOLVEMENT WITH THIS ORGANIZATION IF THE LIST OF BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP IS CREDIBLE. POST WOULD WELCOME ANY VERIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP AND ACTIVITIES OF THIS ORGANIZATION IN OTHER GCC STATES OR IN SELECTED AFRICAN POSTS. END COMMENT.

KEITH